



Name of Property:	Harry S Truman Historic District (updated documentation and boundary change)
City, State:	Independence, Missouri
Significant Dates:	1919 - 1971
NHL Criteria:	2, Exception 8
NHL Theme:	IV. Shaping the Political Landscape 2. Governmental Institutions 4. Political Ideas, Cultures, and Theories
Previous Recognition:	1971 National Historic Landmark 1983 Harry S Truman National Historic Site
National Historic Context:	IX. Political and Military Affairs After 1945

NHL Significance:

- The Harry S Truman Historic District is nationally significant for its association with the life and work of Harry S Truman, the thirty-third president of the United States.
- Truman's close relationships with the people and places of Independence, Missouri, prepared him for his political career, revitalized him during his presidency, supported his retirement activities, and shaped his enduring legacy as a plain-spoken Midwesterner.
- The revised nomination substantially expands the original district boundaries to include the downtown area where Truman worked in various capacities, properties important to and frequented by Truman on his famous walks, and resources omitted from the original designation. These include the Truman Depot, Truman Presidential Library & Museum,



Trinity Episcopal Church, and the Vietta Garr Home.

Integrity:

- The district boundary contains 560 buildings of which 445 are contributing; approximately 80 percent of the buildings within the boundary contribute to its national significance. In addition, there are four contributing sites and two contributing structures, bringing the total number of contributing resources to 451.
- The district is distinguished by its concentration of buildings and landscapes that possess a strong historical association with Harry S Truman, and retain a high degree of historic integrity for the period of significance, 1919-1971.

Owners of Property: Multiple owners: private, non-profit, municipal, county, federal

Size of Property: 153 acres

Origins of Nomination:

- The Truman Historic District was identified by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1998 as one of the nation's "Eleven Most Endangered" historic places. At that time, several core properties in the district were neglected and deteriorating. Complete structural failure of the front façade of the Choplin House, a property on North Delaware Street near the Truman Home NHS, brought national attention to the poor conditions of the district's contributing resources.
- The Truman Road Corridor project, a federally funded transportation project undertaken in the 1990s, also threatened several contributing buildings and the urban district's cultural landscape through road development and expansion.
- Efforts to identify and rehabilitate contributing resources in the district highlighted the need for updated and improved NHL documentation and reconsideration of the original



NHL boundaries.

- Additional research conducted on the life of Harry S Truman and on properties in and around the historic district during the past 40 years has produced additional information that allows a more thorough evaluation of Truman, his activities within Independence, and the historic significance and broader context of his association with the community.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation of the revised historic district will meet favorably with the local community. Throughout the past ten years, the City of Independence, Jackson County, Independence Heritage Commission, and individual property owners, collaborated with NPS Midwest Regional Office staff to research, rehabilitate, and expand the historic district.
- The Harry S Truman National Historic Site is a key partner in the historic district. Since the park's establishment in 1983, the Superintendent and his staff have supported the preservation and interpretation of historic resources in Independence.
- NPS staff with the NHL Program in the Midwest and Intermountain Regional Offices have worked since the district's designation in 1971 to monitor and protect historic resources both within the Truman Historic District and those not included in the initial designation. During this time, the NPS awarded Challenge Cost Share Program grants to eligible properties for their rehabilitation.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments: Explain the usage of the middle initial, a period versus no period, in a footnote.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Carson moved, Dr. Murtagh seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (comments received as of 12/06/10):

The Mayor and City Council of Independence, Missouri, adopted Resolution 5624 on September 7, 2010, in support of the additional documentation and boundary change for the Harry S Truman National Historic Landmark District.

Mark A. Miles, Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Department of Natural Resources, Missouri

Steve Noll, Executive Director, Jackson County Historical Society

Sam Rushay, Ph.D., Heritage Commission, City of Independence, Missouri

Brian and Sharon Snyder, Independence, Missouri (owner)

Christine B. Cissner, Independence, Missouri (owner)

Thomas J. Oesterle, Independence, Missouri

Desiree Mueller Independence, Missouri (owner)

Richard Simpson, Independence, Missouri (owner)

Beth Simpson, Independence, Missouri (owner)

Ashley Sipes, Independence, Missouri

Jon E. Taylor, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, University of Central Missouri

Joyce Mayfield, Independence, Missouri

Caroline Gnefkow, Independence, Missouri

Waylon Holt, Independence, Missouri

Ashley Davis, Independence, Missouri

Audrey Elder, Reece and Nichols, Independence, Missouri

Liana Twente, Historic Home Research Specialist, Past to Present, Missouri

James H. Williams, Ph.D., Director and Professor of History, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

James A. Sanders, Springfield, Illinois

Larry Villalva, Superintendent, Harry S Truman National Historic Site, Independence, Missouri

R. Duane Stephens, Independence, Missouri

Brian and Sharon Snyder, Independence, Missouri (owner)

Charles and Rixie Adams, Independence, Missouri (owner)

Dianne Fox, Independence, Missouri (owner)

Alan and Dianna Latta, Independence, Missouri (owner)

Advisory Board Recommendation: